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Israel and U.S. to Sign ‘Jerusalem Declaration’ Solidifying Strategic Partnership



Israeli soldiers participate in a general rehearsal for U.S. President Joe Biden’s visit, at the Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv, July 12, 2022. Credit: Yossi Aloni/Flash90.

By Dmitriy Shapiro

(JNS) – Ahead of U.S. President Joe Biden’s arrival last Wednesday for his first visit to Israel as president, to be followed by a visit to Saudi Arabia, senior

Israeli officials speaking with reporters on background last Tuesday said that the two countries will formalize what an official called the Jerusalem Declaration

on the U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership. The declaration, according to the official, will be a framework for the bilateral relationship between Israel and the United States and will include a “regional component,” adding that it is geared “to be a living testimony to the unique quality, health, scope, depth and intimacy of the U.S.-Israeli relationship” and that it “shows in the clearest terms possible” the relationship’s unique nature. The declaration will officially outline in writing the common values between the two nations, as well as aspects of regional security both nations agree on and have been at status quo for years. While the concepts in it are not novel, it is the first such pronouncement between the two nations in decades. This includes a section in Iran, which the official said makes a clear stand against that country’s aggression in the region and commits to both nations using their national power against the Iranian nuclear threat. Another section is expected to speak of the importance of American assistance as an “anchor of regional stability”

and expresses the need for a follow-up to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to better address emerging threats and new realities in the region. “It’s a unique testimony to the holistic nature of what we have been doing in the last decades but also sometimes a blueprint for the U.S.-Israel relationship for the next couple of years,” said another official. The officials also spoke about the Israeli government’s hopes for the effect that Biden’s visit will have to further cooperation between Israel and its Arab neighbors in the wake of the 2020 Abraham Accords. The officials praised the ongoing American leadership in normalizing relations and said that they are encouraged by the commitment demonstrated by the United States in transforming the region. “We believe that we created a genuine regional partnership, of which the U.S. is an integral part, but of which the states of the region are also equal and responsible members and partners,” noted one of the officials. (See **Partnership** Page 3)

IsraAID Delivers Cargo of Humanitarian, Medical Aid to War-Torn Ukraine



Humanitarian aid to Ukraine. Credit: Pixabay

(JNS) – A large cargo of medical and humanitarian aid was recently collected and delivered to Ukraine by the Israeli international humanitarian aid organization IsraAID and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Israel-Ukraine. A total of 31 pallets weighing 9 tons (19,841 pounds) were delivered to the city of Kharkiv on July 6, the Ukrainian embassy in Israel announced on its Facebook page. The cargo contained tourniquets, bandages, occlusive dressings, chest seals, surgical packs, hygiene kits and diapers. The embassy said these items “will help save the lives of Ukrainians who are suffering from the horrors of the Russian invasion.”

On its own Facebook post, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry thanked the individuals and companies who donated items for the cargo sent to help Ukrainians affected by the war. IsraAID’s Emergency Response team has been working over the last several months in some of the worst affected cities in Ukraine during the country’s ongoing war with Russia. The organization delivered more than 700 kilograms (1,543 pounds) of rice and 300 kilograms (661 pounds) of tuna last week to Ukrainian cities severely affected by food shortages. IsraAID has also been operating for the last four months in a tent at the Moldova-Ukraine border to welcome and help Ukrainian refugees fleeing their home country. **HW**



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Judy Lansky Brings Valuable Experience as a Jewish Professional to Memphis Jewish Federation as Director of Development



Returning Memphian Judy Lansky brings years of experience as a Jewish professional to her new role as Memphis Jewish Federation’s Director of Development.

Memphis-born Judy Lansky joined the Memphis Jewish Federation team earlier this summer as the organization’s director of development, returning to the community after over a decade away. She left Memphis after high school to attend the University of Maryland before starting her career as a non-profit professional in Michigan.

“After being gone for so long, I’m excited to be back in my hometown and working to sustain a vibrant Jewish community,” said Judy. “I’m looking forward to bringing what I’ve learned thus far in my career back home and contributing to Federation’s efforts to nurture and engage Jewish Memphis.”

Judy began her Jewish journey in a very Memphis way, often through programs and agencies supported by Memphis Jewish Federation’s Annual Community Campaign. As a baby she attended what is now known as the Memphis Jewish Community Center Early Childhood Center, and later Beth Sholom Synagogue religious school. During the summers, she was a camper at Camp Sabra in Rocky Mount, Mo. As a Ridgeway High School student, Judy played soccer, learned about leadership and diversity from Memphis’ Bridge Builders program and was National Honor Society president. Outside of school, she was involved in BBYO and served as USY chapter president for two years. Additionally, she was a leader in the Jewish Foundation of Memphis B’nai Tzedek Teen Philanthropy Program and represented the community at

a national philanthropy conference.

“B’nai Tzedek was my first insight into philanthropy. The program introduced me to needs in the community and taught me the importance of giving to organizations that I cared about,” said Judy. “There were always more requests than we could grant, and we were forced to make tough choices on who to support. It was where I learned how essential fundraising was.”

At the University of Maryland, College Park, Judy majored in history and Jewish studies, and studied abroad at the University of Haifa in Israel. She was involved in the Jewish Student Union, Zeta Tau Alpha, and was a campus tour guide. During her summers, she worked at Camp Ramah Darom in Clayton, Ga., and was an orientation advisor for the university.

Upon graduation, Judy moved to Ann Arbor, Mich., to work at the University of Michigan’s Hillel where she was responsible for student engagement and leadership development. While there, she led alternative spring break and Birthright trips. In Ann Arbor, she was also a founding member of the Ann Arbor Jewish Federation’s young adult group. Michigan Hillel cemented her interest in fundraising, and she took her talents to the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit where she had the opportunity to work with philanthropic advancement, young adult engagement and Women’s Philanthropy.

“I’m really proud of my work with the Detroit Jewish community. I grew

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Weekly Torah Portion: Pinchas

as a strategic fundraising professional and learned how to build strong and authentic relationships with lay leaders and donors. I’m also especially proud of the work I did in the realm of social justice,” Judy said. “I collaborated on community service projects and volunteer opportunities around the city, staffed the start of a Jewish LGBTQIA community and coordinated several anti-racist co-existence campaigns.”

After five years in Jewish non-profits, Judy went to the Girl Scouts of South-eastern Michigan as the director of Cor-

porate Initiatives where she was responsible for corporate giving and creating partnerships between the Girl Scouts and Metropolitan Detroit.

Recently graduated from the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan with a Master of Public Affairs, Judy took classes in management and leadership, budgeting, international affairs and human rights. She completed her Capstone Project with the Fair Food Network, a non-profit focused on supporting farmers, relieving food insecurity and increasing access to healthy food.

“We are thrilled to welcome Judy to this critical role,” said Laura Linder, president & CEO of Jewish Community Partners, which operates Memphis Jewish Federation. “We’ve come full circle with Judy’s appointment as director of development! It’s gratifying to see the positive impact B’nai Tzedek made on her career choice. She is bringing so much creativity and energy to our campaign. We know she will have great success in her new role.”

“I’m thrilled to be back in Memphis working for the community that helped raise me,” said Judy. “It feels full circle to raise money for so many of the programs I benefitted from growing up.”

When she’s not working, you can find Judy at a yoga studio, climbing gym and walking her dogs or biking at the Wolf River Greenway. She also loves good food and live music and is happy that Memphis has both. **HW**



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Partnership...
(Continued From Page 1)

The officials said the new partnerships have benefited regional security collaborations and that beyond the new relationships with allies who have signed on to the agreement, the accords have also positively influenced Israel’s longstanding relationship with Egypt and Jordan, allowing for more joint projects and programs to be developed.

According to one of the officials, an announcement is expected to be made on a “new stage of cooperation on technology that will touch on a wide spectrum of fields, and that during the visit, there will also be discussions on accelerating the process to include Israel in the Visa Waiver Program.

‘Iran is continuing to violate its obligations’

The visit will be Biden’s 10th to Israel with the officials noting Biden’s decades of support for the Jewish state, which they said the Israeli government very much recognizes and cherishes.

Besides shared goals, the officials said on the table for discussion are certain diplomatic differences, including Israel’s belief that America’s attempt to re-enter the 2015 nuclear deal (the

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA) with Iran has run its course, and that even if something is agreed upon, it will be a short-term solution with few benefits, and many strategic and economic drawbacks.

“Iran is continuing to violate its obligations and continues to deceive the international community ...,” said one of the officials. “Our basic position is that Iran is playing for time, and as long as Iran believes that time is on its side, it will not give in and will not give any concessions. This has been our approach for many months now. The time has run out on JCPOA.”

The officials noted that the United States has in recent months taken steps that are more in alignment with what Israel would like to see, including signaling that it was not willing to remove Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps from the U.S. list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTO), which the Iranian regime is demanding in the nuclear negotiations; delivering a resolution against Iran during a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency’s board of governors; and recently designating more Iranian entities as FTOs.

Biden’s visit to Saudi Arabia – flying

to the city of Jeddah from Tel Aviv – was viewed very positively by the officials, who without going into detail said that gradual steps were being made in regard to Israel’s relationship to the kingdom.

“Let me start by saying that – and this has been the Israeli view for many years – we cannot imagine the full transformation of the Middle East without having normalized relationships between Israel and all of its neighboring countries, including Saudi Arabia,” said one of the officials, adding that Biden traveling from Israel directly to Saudi Arabia “encapsulates a lot of the dynamics that have been evolving over the last months.”

“We are hoping and acting so that the steps that are taken now will only be the beginning, and that this will be the start the process of normalization between the countries,” noted the official. “We want to fully support and also bless the coming together of the American administration and Saudi Arabia. We believe that this is important for the United States, important for Israel and important for the security of the region.” **HW**

Susan Levko
Receives
a Light of
Torah Award



Susan Levko, co-manager of Beth Sholom Sisterhood

Susan Levko, co-manager of Beth Sholom Sisterhood and a tireless volunteer for the synagogue, has been recognized with a Light of Torah Award from Southern Region Women’s League of Conservative Judaism (WLCJ). The ceremony, which was held virtually on June 12, honored Conservative Judaism sisterhood leaders in the South who selflessly elevate the synagogue experience and contribute to the betterment of their communities.

“Whenever work needs to be done, Susan is ready to lend a hand,” said Barbara Hellman, vice president of Torah Fund for Southern Region WLCJ and programming chair for the Beth Sholom Sisterhood. “I like to say that if the doors of the synagogue are open, Susan is inside working on something.”

Levko has been particularly busy this year. She singlehandedly supervised the re-opening of the synagogue’s kitchen after in-person services resumed. She enhanced kiddush lunches that are now catered by Chef Marisa Baggett and coordinates the volunteer kiddush hosts.

“Susan is such an integral component of Beth Sholom’s success,” said Rabbi Sarit Horwitz, the spiritual leader of Beth Sholom. “Susan’s work enriches our community, and her warmth brings people together. I am so pleased that Southern Region WCJL sees what we see and recognized her vital contributions.”

Levko is well known for her work on behalf of Southern Region WLCJ. She co-chaired this year’s successful Southern Region conference that Beth Sholom Sisterhood hosted.

Levko also joins with members of the shul’s Tikkun Olam committee to support the greater Memphis community. She participates in the committee’s coat and school-supply drives for students at Volunteer Coleman School and by volunteering at Coleman’s holiday gift shop. She also cooks meals for the Memphis Room In The Inn program for women experiencing homelessness.

Right now, Levko is working with other Sisterhood members to develop programs for the upcoming year, including Sisterhood’s first Honey from the Heart fundraiser and a demonstration of Rosh Hashanah recipes by Chef Baggett on September 11.

According to Levko, “All of this work is my way of perpetuating Judaism and help it flourish as a significant part of people’s lives. This is a labor of love to me.” **HW**

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Andrew Garfield, Julia Garner and Adrien Brody Make This Year’s Long List of Jewish Emmy Nominees



Credit: Valerie Macon/AFP via Getty Images
By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – Jewish TV shows and performers are well represented on the list of 2022 Emmy nominations, with actors including Seth Rogen, Julia Garner, Andrew Garfield and Henry Winkler making the cut.

It was a particularly good year for Jews in comedy, as several of this year’s nominated comedies have Jewish connections.

Amazon Prime’s “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel” and HBO’s “Curb Your Enthusiasm,” both shows centering around Jewish comedians, picked up best comedy nods for their fourth and 11th seasons, respectively. “Maisel” picked up additional acting nominations for Rachel Brosnahan, Alex Borstein and Tony Shalhoub, with 12 nominations in all, and “Curb” scored another one for guest actor (Bill Hader). “Curb” co-star J.B. Smoove, who is not Jewish but has impersonated an Ethiopian Jew on the show before, co-hosted the Emmys nomination announcements.

HBO Max’s “Hacks,” a show about a Las Vegas comic with heavy parallels to the life of Jewish comedian Joan Rivers and executive-produced by Jewish TV comedy hitmaker Michael Schur (“The Office,” “Parks and Recreation”), was also nominated for its second season, along with its Jewish supporting actress, Hannah Einbinder.

Other comedies produced by Jews, including FX’s “What We Do In The Shadows” (executive-produced by Taika Waititi, among others) and Hulu’s “Only Murders In The Building” (executive-produced by Dan Fogelman, among others), also scored nominations. The Belnord building, the real-life Upper West Side apartment that serves as the setting for “Only Murders,” has a

long Jewish history.

On the drama side, HBO teen soap “Euphoria,” adapted from an Israeli series and made by executive producer Sam Levinson, scored 16 nominations including best drama. And “Severance,” Apple TV+’s dystopian workplace drama directed by Ben Stiller, picked up 14 nominations including best drama and best director for Stiller.

“Dopesick,” a Hulu limited series about the opioid epidemic, draws from the real-life role the Jewish Sackler family played in the overmedication of addictive painkillers. It picked up 14 nominations, including for limited series and acting nods for Michael Stuhlbarg and Mare Winningham.

Several Jewish performers scored nominations, too. Garner was recognized for playing outlandish scammer Anna Delvey on Netflix’s “Inventing Anna,” Garfield for playing a Mormon investigator on FX’s “Under The Banner Of Heaven,” Rogen for playing a sex-tape leaker on Hulu’s tabloid biography “Pam & Tommy,” Winkler for playing an acting coach on HBO’s dark hitman comedy “Barry,” Brett Goldstein for playing a soccer team captain on Apple TV+’s sports comedy “Ted Lasso,” and Adrien Brody for playing a Jewish investor on HBO’s “Succession.”

Some non-Jewish actors playing Jewish roles made the cut as well. In addition to Brosnahan and Shalhoub for “Maisel,” Oscar Isaac was nominated for his turn as an ex-Orthodox husband going through a bitter divorce on HBO’s “Scenes From A Marriage” (created by Israeli Hagai Levi).

Apple TV+’s “The Problem With Jon Stewart” and Disney+’s “The World According To Jeff Goldblum” are nominated in the nonfiction series category. Mark Cuban was also nominated as reality-TV host for his ABC business competition series “Shark Tank.” Seth Meyers, who is not Jewish but who is mistaken for Jewish often enough that his own (Jewish) in-laws told him he’s “Jewish enough,” was nominated in the talk variety category for his NBC talk show.

The leading show across all categories was “Succession,” with 25 nominations total, followed by “Ted Lasso,” “The White Lotus,” “Only Murders In The Building” and “Hacks.” **HW**

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OBITUARIES

Hilda Dimand Dlugach

Hilda Dimand Dlugach died July 1, 2022, after a long illness, at her home that she resided in for over 64 years. She was born in Memphis, on July 16, 1936, to Minnie Kossovitz Dimand and Sol Dimand. She was a graduate of Central High School and the University of Memphis. While in high school, she served as president of Bluff City BBG. Ms. Dlugach received many accolades as a Certified Professional Secretary. She retired after 30 years as the National Labor Relations Board. A voracious reader and tireless worker, she was highly conscientious about her work at

school, at the office, and at her home.

Hilda was an active member of Anshei Sphard - Beth El Emeth Synagogue, which she loved.

She was devoted to her family and was a caretaker to many of her aunts.

She was the widow of Jack H. Dlugach and is survived by her sons, Michael S. Dlugach and Jeffrey E. Dlugach, all of Memphis. Funeral services were held Sunday, July 3, 2022, at Katzman Memorial Chapel, at Anshei Sphard Cemetery. Donations are requested to be sent to Anshei Sphard - Beth El Emeth Synagogue. **HW**

Yoram Fisher

Yoram Fisher of Kfar Blum, Israel, (formerly of Memphis) died July 9, 2022. He was born in Roxbury, Mass., on March 20, 1939, and grew up in Bangor and Portland, Maine. He was predeceased by his parents, Max and Anne Pepper Fisher, and a son, Royee Fisher. He is survived by his brother, Richard Fisher of Phoenix, Ariz., (formerly of

Memphis), his children, Avi Fisher (formerly of Memphis), Adaya Koshitsky, Reut Barnea, Moti Fisher and Sivan Fisher (all of Israel), seven grandchildren and many Pepper first cousins in Memphis and out-of-town. He served in the Sinai with the IDF during “The Yom Kippur War.” The funeral took place in Kfar Blum, Israel. He was 83. **HW**

Walter Fleischhacker

Walter Fleischhacker, 96, of Memphis, Tennessee, passed away on July 12, 2022. He was born September 9, 1925, in Halle, Germany, to Bruno and Elfriede (Siedner) Fleischhacker. At the age of 6 his family fled Germany and lived in Saint Gallen, Switzerland until 1941.

He immigrated to the United States through Cuba arriving in Miami on July 4, 1941. The family settled in Chicago where he worked for Selig Engineering and Tooling prior to joining the army in January of 1944 serving in Germany. He moved to Memphis in 1963 where he was employed by Kimco Auto Parts.

He has been married to his wife, Hilda (Frank), for 68 years. He also leaves three children, Michael of Silver Spring, Md., Deborah Wayler (Barry) of Walpole, Mass., and David (Chany) of Memphis, and three grandchildren, Leah, Menachem and Yehudit Fleischhacker.

Mr. Fleischhacker had a great love of music and possessed a beautiful voice. He sang in several choirs and as a lay cantor in several congregations during his life, including Congregation Habonim in Chicago and Beth Sholom Congregation in Memphis. He has been an active member of Baron Hirsch Congregation for the last 50 years and an active volunteer. Hilda and Walter were

honored with the congregation’s Member of the Year Award in 2008.

After retiring, Hilda and Walter enjoyed travelling, including several trips to Israel and returning to see their childhood homes in Germany and Switzerland. They also spent much of their time doing volunteer work at Baron Hirsch, the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab and the Pink Palace. He also loved animals, was a regular contributor to the Memphis Humane Society and was especially fond of the cats he owned during much of his life.

Most of all, Walter loved his family, and was always there to support and assist them. He looked forward to each of their visits and enjoyed taking trips to visit them. In addition to his immediate family, he is also survived by his loving brother-in-law, Werner Frank of Los Angeles, and his family and his devoted nephew, Rod (Kathy) Challenger of St. Petersburg, Fla., and their family.

Funeral Services were held on July 14 in the Sam Abraham Chapel with burial at the Baron Hirsch Cemetery. Rabbi Shai Finkelstein, former Senior Rabbi of Baron Hirsch and a close friend of the family, officiated at the service. The family is grateful for any donations to go to Baron Hirsch Congregation, or the charity of one’s choice. **HW**

Marlene Snyder Perlman

Beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister, Marlene Snyder Perlman, age 79, passed away peacefully in her sleep with her family by her side on July 4, 2022. Marlene is survived by two of her brothers, Richard (Leah Jean) Snyder and Conrad (Robin) Snyder and sister-in-law Evelyn Snyder, two daughters Teri Idstein (Aaron Buch) and Randi (Eddie) Vollmer, her son Elliott Perlman (Yvette) and her 10 grandchildren, Isaac (Alex), Hannah (fiancé Jake), Sarah, Annie, Zachary, Chelsea, Austin, Charlotte, Dalton and Rain, as well as her great-grandchildren, Livia and Layton.

Marlene is preceded in death by her parents, Rueben and DeVelling Snyder, brother Martin Snyder and grandson

Aaron Joshua Idstein.

Marlene was born in Memphis, Tennessee, on May 13, 1943. She attended Forrest City High School.

Marlene was a sweet loving woman who loved to do needle point and color. She enjoyed simple things like playing cards with her children and grandchildren.

Marlene had a smile that could brighten the room and a quick wit to keep you laughing. Marlene put up a valiant fight against advanced Parkinson’s and Dementia before finally succumbing to the diseases to go to her Eternal Home.

Marlene will be loved and missed by all who knew her. She was a long-time resident of Memphis until finally settling in Texas to live near her daughters. **HW**

OBITUARIES

The Hebrew Watchman provides obituaries with a photo as a service to the Jewish community at no charge.

Please send us your information and we can help you edit.

The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

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Thursday, July 28
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Tuesday, August 2
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Thursday, August 4
Field Trip to Baskin Robbins!
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Please join us from Monday through Friday for a delicious Kosher lunch from the Kitchens at the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab. The cost is only \$2 for seniors. Reservations are required the day before by 1 p.m. by contacting Steve Kaplan, Adult Services Coordinator, at 901-259-9220 or stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org or calling the front desk at 901-761-0810. **HW**

Biden Affirms Support of Two-State Solution ‘On 1967 Lines with Land Swaps’



U.S. President Joe Biden meets with Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas in Bethlehem on July 15, 2022. Credit: Courtesy of ©C-SPAN

(JNS) – During the last of his nearly three-day trip to Israel before flying to Saudi Arabia, U.S. President Joe Biden met with leaders from the Palestinian Authority last Friday to reaffirm America’s commitment to a two-state solution and the well-being of the Palestinians.

In Bethlehem, Biden met with Palestinian Authority leader Mahmoud Abbas, where the president “underscored his commitment to a two-state solution on the 1967 lines with land swaps mutually agreed by the Israelis and Palestinians.”

During the meeting, Biden expressed that the U.S. position was that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, but specific boundaries must be resolved by final-status negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis through dialogue.

Biden also called on the status quo to be maintained at the holy sites in Jerusalem, including keeping in place Jordan’s role as custodian of the Al-Aqsa mosque. To create conditions for negotiations to move forward, he urged both Palestinians and Israelis to avoid unilateral measures to inflame tensions.

He said that direct negotiations are needed to achieve an “independent, sovereign, viable and contiguous Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel, both enjoying secure and recognized borders, allowing the two peoples to live side-by-side in peace and security.”

“Palestinian people deserve to live lives of dignity and opportunity; to move and travel freely; to feel secure in their communities; and to give hope to their children that they will one day enjoy the same freedom and self-determination of their neighbors,” he stated.

The president also discussed initiatives being undertaken by America to support the Palestinian people and encouraged regional governments and the international community to assist them. **HW**

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Miss Tennessee Contestant Sydney Caen Raised Awareness about Antisemitism



2022 Miss Tennessee contestant Sydney Caen used her platform to raise awareness about antisemitism at the pageant held June 23-25.

With the global rise in antisemitism and hate, it's vital that people in the public eye send a clear message against Jewish discrimination. That is exactly what one young woman did while all eyes were on her. Sydney Caen, a contestant in this year's Miss Tennessee pageant held in Memphis in June used her platform to raise awareness and encourage people to stand up and speak out against antisemitism.

During Sydney's social impact initiative section of the 2022 Miss Tennessee competition, she took the opportunity to raise awareness about the rise of antisemitism and how to educate against hate.

"In 30 seconds, it is hard to get a lot of information out in a way that grips peo-

ple's attention. I started off my speech by stating the fact that my family finding refuge in the United States is what saved them from genocide, but here they still face discrimination today," she said. "I went into the numbers and cited how over half of all religious hate crimes are targeted at Jews, and how in 2021, antisemitism reached an all-time high. I encouraged people to stand up and speak out against antisemitism, be educators in their community, and lean on online resources like The Anti-Defamation League (ADL). We need to let other people know that this is a problem, so we can raise awareness and help stop it."

"We are so proud of Sydney for raising the critical issue of antisemitism at the recent Miss Tennessee pageant," said Memphis Jewish Federation Executive Vice President Bluma Zuckerbrot-Finkelstein. "Her doing so significantly broadens the reach of antisemitism awareness in our state."

In addition to her pageant speech, Sydney reached out to Memphis Jewish Federation (Federation) asking for a sponsored advertisement in the pageant's program booklet, which Federation happily agreed to do.

"I really appreciate that Memphis Jewish Federation took the time to help me out with the pageant," said Sydney. "They purchased an ad for Miss Tennessee, and it was really cool to see that support in the program book. There were around 400 people at the pageant who received program books, so I know it really was nice that when they are flipping through that they are going to see a call to action to take a pledge against antisemitism and help stop it."

Now 25 years old, Sydney was raised,

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In support of Sydney's efforts to raise the critical issue of antisemitism, Memphis Jewish Federation sponsored this ad in the 2022 Miss Tennessee Pageant program booklet.

in her own words, "culturally Jewish" along with her three siblings by parents Morris and Wendy Caen. While she grew up in Cordova and has early memories of attending Temple Israel, her family has since moved and is currently living in Columbus, Tenn.

"I've just always loved how family oriented and accepting Judaism is. The family aspect of gathering and partaking in holiday traditions has always been very meaningful and fulfilling to me," said Sydney. "I was bat mitzvah'd on a Birthright Israel trip at the Western Wall in 2018, and it was absolutely incredible. Before Birthright, I was very involved with Hillel on my campus. That is when I started advocating against antisemitism, and after Birthright is when I got involved with pro-Israel activism as well."

Sydney has always been an avid horseback rider, competed throughout high school in rodeo events, and even went to college at Oklahoma State University to compete on the school's rodeo team during her freshman year of college. She has since graduated with majors in both political science and history.


"This was my first year to do Miss Tennessee or compete in the Miss America system," said Sydney. "However, I was

previously involved in a niche where rodeo queen pageants are held with a similar concept, except participants compete to be an ambassador for various rodeo associations. In 2021, I was a participant in Miss Rodeo Tennessee and later competed for Miss Rodeo America, and then this year I competed in my first traditional Miss America pageant."

"I know a lot of people tend to think of beauty pageants as being superficial, but in the past few years Miss America has completely branched off from that; they no longer participate in swimsuit, and appearance is no longer a judged portion," Sydney said. "The competition focuses on who the woman is, what her interests are, and what she likes to advocate."

Participants compete in a 10-minute interview with the panelists followed by a portion of the competition in which contestants give a 30-second speech describing their social impact initiative. The competition also holds a talent portion where contestants showcase their unique traits or special talents – in Sydney's case, she performed stand-up comedy.

"All those aspects overall are just so fun and empowering to get to do on stage," said Sydney. **HW**



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Lea Michele will Replace Beanie Feldstein in ‘Funny Girl’ on Broadway



Lea Michele will take over the role of “Funny Girl” on Broadway from Beanie Feldstein
Credit: Getty Images

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – Lea Michele will replace Beanie Feldstein as the lead of Broadway’s revival of the extremely Jewish musical “Funny Girl,” with Jewish Broadway legend Tovah Feldshuh stepping into a key supporting role.

Michele and Feldshuh’s first performance will be Sept. 6. Feldstein announced last Sunday she would be leaving the Broadway show July 31, earlier than originally planned. Standby Julie Benko will take over the role until Michele makes her debut.

“A dream come true is an understatement,” Michele said in an Instagram post last Monday, the same day the casting was announced.

A “Glee” star and member of the original Broadway cast of “Spring Awakening,” Michele was rumored for months to be Feldstein’s replacement. Michele has made no secret of her admiration for “Funny Girl” and the role of pioneering Jewish vaudevillian Fanny Brice, whose story is chronicled in the 1964 musical. She sang a song from the show in a 2011 tribute to original star Barbra Streisand, whom Michele has said she considers her role model. Her character on “Glee,” Rachel Berry, even starred in the show-within-a-show’s Broadway revival of “Funny Girl.” (Michele performed the

show’s signature number, “Don’t Rain on My Parade,” on live “Glee” tours.)

Michele, who learned about her Sephardic Jewish ancestry on a 2016 reality show, will be joined in the cast by Feldshuh, who will replace another “Glee” star, Jane Lynch, in the role of Fanny’s mother. Feldshuh is a Broadway veteran who has played an assortment of Jewish roles on stage and screen, including Yentl in “Yentl,” Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir in “Golda’s Balcony,” sexologist Dr. Ruth Weistheimer in “Becoming Dr. Ruth” and roles in works including the TV miniseries “Holocaust” and the LGBT+ Jewish romcom “Kissing Jessica Stein.”

“My Judaism is like a third leg that goes down deep in the earth,” Feldshuh once told Jewish Telegraphic Agency sister publication Kveller.

The revival of “Funny Girl,” the first on Broadway since Streisand originated the role, debuted in April amid sky-high expectations for Feldstein as the headliner. The “Booksmart” and “Lady Bird” star was open about how her Jewish identity informed her desire to do the role, telling the New York Jewish Week that “any Jewish woman who wants to be funny and perform and sing owes something to Fanny Brice.”

But it was a rocky road on Broadway for Feldstein, as tepid reviews for both her performance and the Harvey Fierstein-reimagined show as a whole rained on her parade. She was also snubbed for a Tony award. In her exit announcement, she suggested that she was leaving early because the revival would be undergoing major changes.

“Playing Fanny Brice on Broadway has been a lifelong dream of mine, and doing so for the last few months has been a great joy and true honor,” Feldstein wrote. “Once the production decided to take the show in a different direction, I made the extremely difficult decision to step away sooner than anticipated.”

It’s not all bad news for Feldstein, though: On social media last month, she announced that she is engaged to longtime girlfriend Bonnie Chance Roberts. Actor Jonah Hill (Feldstein’s brother) and another Jewish actor, Ben Platt (her longtime friend), were present for the occasion. [HW](#)

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Most states participate in a national database called Missing Money. Searching on MissingMoney.com is free. Make sure to search the specific databases for every state where you (or your close family members) have lived.

Federal agencies also hold on to unclaimed property such as tax refunds, pension funds, funds from failed banks and credit unions, refunds from FHA-insured mortgages, and unredeemed savings bonds. There is no central database for federal agencies, but you can find more specific information about where to look at usa.gov/unclaimed-money.

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Hold Onto Your Hummus: Global Chickpea Supply Could Drop 20% This Year

By Caleb Guedes-Reed

(JTA) – Lovers of hummus and falafel beware: data shows that global supplies of chickpeas, the main ingredient for both dishes, may dip up to 20% this year.

A combination of Russia’s war in Ukraine, poor weather and transportation issues is leading to the shortage, which is predicted to increase prices and make cheap hummus harder to come by, Reuters reported last Thursday.

Farmers in the United States, the fourth-largest chickpea exporter in the world, planted less of the protein-packed legume this year due to less than ideal weather conditions in the spring.

Russia is also a top chickpea producer. Global sanctions have interrupted the country’s global chickpea exports, while the ongoing war has decreased the amount of chickpeas normally grown in Ukraine by about 50 tons, the head of a global chickpea trader and brokerage firm told Reuters.

Many communities around the world have depended on chickpeas, which are a staple of many Israeli dishes, as cheap sources of protein and fiber. Demand for hummus has skyrocketed in the United States over the past two decades.

According to NielsenIQ data, chickpea prices are already 17% higher than they were before the pandemic began. [HW](#)

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Exciting Staff Additions and Changes at the MJCC



The Memphis Jewish Community Center is excited to welcome Rabbi Abe Schacter-Gampel to the team as the director for the Center of Jewish Life and Learning (CJLL) as of July 2022. Rabbi Abe has a wealth of training and experience that will strengthen and improve the pluralistic Jewish content through the CJLL at the J. Rabbi Abe credits his experience on an American Jewish World Service trip, where he first engaged with Jewish peers from a diverse set of backgrounds, with teaching him about the unique value of each individual’s expression of Judaism. Through serving as president of Hillel in college, working to bring together Jewish students to create a meaningful community, he found the inspiration to devote his professional career to the Jewish community.

Rabbi Abe stated, “I chose to attend Yeshivat Chovevei Torah rabbinical school because of its Orthodox identity and its mission to train inclusive and welcoming rabbis who engage with individuals regardless of their religious expression.”

His work experiences, specifically as director of Spiritual Care at Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab, helped him craft a framework for offering pastoral care to the Home, which included the entire spectrum of Memphis’ Jewish and non-Jewish community.

Be on the lookout in the fall for programming and events through the Center of Jewish Life and Learning at the J!

Rabbi Abe is just one of many wonderful additions and changes to the MJCC Team over the past year. Navigating through changes over the past few years, the J has continued to move forward, always thinking of how to better serve its members, not only bringing in exciting talent from the community but promoting from within when an opportunity presents.

Rashki Osina, LCSW, was promoted recently to director of Social Services for Wendy and Avron B. Fogelman Jewish Family Services at the Memphis Jewish Community Center upon the retirement of the previous director. Rashki has been at the J for seven years, formerly as lead therapist and program manager and also currently serves as Mah Ani camp director, leading rising 7-8th graders to give back to the community through community service. She is married to a lifelong Memphian who grew up at the MJCC, and together they share two children who are active in the MJCC. Rashki is excited to fill the role of director at Fogelman JFS, leading the team in providing compassionate social services.

Sometimes staff leave and have the opportunity to return – and are welcomed back with heartfelt enthusiasm! This is the case with Sophie Samuels, who was MJCC camp and youth director from 2013-2020 and returned to the J

earlier this year as program director for Cultural Arts and Adult Services. Sophie stated, “I love working at the J and interacting with members of all ages. From my own kindergarten graduation to now dropping my son off in the ECC, the J has helped shape me into who I am today. The MJCC is such a special place in our community, and I feel lucky to work here.”

Sophie has a background in studio art and in her spare time can be found painting in her home studio. The J has been a staple in Sophie’s life from childhood to her first job as MJCC game room manager, to working as a camp counselor and then as camp director. Now she is on a new journey, using her love for the arts to plan dynamic Cultural Arts programming at the J.

Sophie shared her enthusiasm for her new role, stating, “Cultural Arts is a fantastic way to bring people together, and I think we are all looking for that right now. I can’t wait to use my creativity and organization to plan engaging programs for our members.”

Earlier this year, Idesha Reese joined the MJCC team as the marketing and public relations director. Idesha has worked in communications, marketing and public relations in the nonprofit sector for more than 15 years, which has allowed her to make a career out of two of her passions: storytelling and helping people. Idesha stated that she likes the teamwork atmosphere at the J, where everyone is working towards achieving the overall mission while exuding the values of the organization.

Sharon Kaplan, recently promoted to Early Childhood assistant director is another example of a lifelong member using their talents to serve their community at the J. Sharon grew up at the J in the ECC and later, her first job was in the game room/teen lounge. She completed the Counselor in Training (CIT) program and spent many summers as a camp counselor and was even a unit head for a few summers. Sharon left

Memphis to attend college and later worked at the Bender JCC in Rockville, Md., as an assistant teacher and in other roles.

Sharon eventually found her way back to the area and nine years ago came back to the J as an employee. Prior to her promotion Sharon held positions as the ECC office assistant & office manager. About working at the J, Sharon states, “I love the J. It’s always been a home to me. I love the people I work with at the J. I love walking through the halls of the ECC and listening to the songs, stories and laughter coming from the kids.”

Kyndal Kirkwood joined the J as the assistant sports and leagues director in early 2022. Coach Kyndal’s passion for sports is evident as she works with the younger sports and leagues participants. While she primarily interacts with youth and ECC participants, she also can be found coaching or helping out with adult basketball leagues and pickleball (a fan favorite at the J). Kyndal’s experience coaching youth sports, including bowling, soccer, basketball and tee ball, is serving her well in her role, and the participants benefit from her knowledge and expertise.

Kyndal completed a college internship at the J in the Fitness department and was excited when a position came open in her field. She echoed sentiments shared by her colleagues, that returning to the J was like coming home. During her internship at the J, she worked with the Rocksteady Boxing program for those with Parkinson’s and was amazed at the impact the program has on the participants. Coach Kyndal can often be found helping out with the Rock Steady Program on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Another relatively new face at the J is Monique Walker in the Plough Wellness Center. Monique joined the J as the assistant fitness director in early 2022 and has been making a positive impact ever since.

Monique’s love of people and her passion for fitness are contagious as she draws people in to get fit while having fun. Monique also coordinates personal training at the J and advocates connecting people with the trainer that will best help them reach their goals. Monique has extensive fitness experience and is an AFAA certified Group Fitness instructor, a Yoga Alliance certified yoga teacher, and is in the process of becoming a NASM Certified Personal Trainer.

Just since January, Monique has gained a following in her Sun-Mon Dance Cardio and Tu-Th HIITxFlow group fitness classes, which are favorites of members as well as non-members who drop in for the classes.

Monique shared what working at the J means to her, stating, “I have the chance to showcase my knowledge for an industry that is my passion but also continue being a student and learning so I can be the best fitness professional that I can.”

Another familiar face joined the MJCC as a full-time staff member earlier this year. Collin Dowling, who had previously been the Blue Dolphins Swim Team Coach, was announced as Aquatics director in February 2022. Collin was born and raised in Memphis and has been on the Memphis aquatic scene his entire life. Collin has worked professionally as a swim coach for the past 10 years and holds both a Bachelor and Master of Exercise Science from the University of Memphis. Collin absolutely loves swimming and strives to share that passion with others. When asked, Collin said he is most excited about joining this wonderful community and trying to make the most positive impact possible.

Each of these team members brings new energy to their respective roles and we are excited for the ways in which they will enhance the overall membership experience at the J, together. **HW**

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BA.5 is Pummeling Jewish Summer Camps, Sickening Campers and Canceling Visiting Days



Due to rising COVID cases, many Jewish summer camps have decided to cancel “visiting day”. Credit: Getty

By Jackie Hajdenberg

(JTA) – So many campers were sick with COVID-19 last week at Ramah New England that its director, Rabbi Ed Gelb, put out a call to families: Would any nurses be willing to come to camp for a few days to help?

“We have a large and capable nursing staff, but more help would be great,” he wrote.

Gelb’s request came in an extended email about the state of the pandemic at the Palmer, Massachusetts, Jewish camp, in which he said some buildings had been transformed temporarily into infirmaries. But unlike some other camps, he said, Ramah New England would not be introducing universal masking or surveillance testing.

“COVID is in camp, and I don’t think we are going to eradicate it during this session,” Gelb wrote.

The experience is a far cry from what happened last year, when Camp Ramah notched just nine COVID-19 cases across more than 7,000 campers in 10 locations, according to a Centers for Disease Control study that held it up

as an example of how to gather safely during the pandemic.

Ramah New England declined to answer questions about its COVID situation. But its experience is hardly unusual: Jewish summer camps, like the rest of the country, are being pummeled as the BA.5 subvariant spreads like wild-fire across the world, evading defenses and infecting even people who are vaccinated or have recently been sick.

Last year, Jewish camps tended to create a “bubble” – once children and counselors entered camp and underwent a strict quarantine, they would be able to have a regular summer, but no one could leave or enter their camps. This year, camps still required testing before arrival, but counselors have been allowed to leave on their days off and people offering programming have been able to enter, while the declining effectiveness of testing meant some infections entered with campers and spread, undetected.

Now, with the disease spreading rampantly among campers and staff, camps have rejiggered their plans to create more space for quarantining, limit activ-

ities and, in many cases, do away with visiting days that would have marked a return-to-normalcy milestone.

A slew of camps, including several operated by the National Ramah Commission, have abruptly announced that, contrary to the plans in place at the start of the summer, parents and siblings won’t be able to visit this summer. Instead, some will be breaking from a cardinal rule of overnight camp and allowing campers video calls with their families.

Ramah in the Berkshires told families by email last Thursday that each camper would be able to spend 20 minutes with their families on Zoom on the Sunday that would have been visiting day. Older campers will be able to use their cell phones, previously off-limits to them, to make the calls.

“In a strange way, I was hoping the email was coming,” Jordana Horn Gordon, who has a child spending the whole summer at Ramah in the Berkshires, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, about the message that announced the cancellation of visiting day.

“That doesn’t sound right and may get me kicked out of the Jewish mother club,” Horn Gordon added. “But I think that it’s better for the community at camp and for the families of the people at camp to not have it in person.”

Ramah New England, too, called off visiting day. The camp is instead juggling efforts to manage the disease among its population. Campers who test positive and live in driving distance of camp are being asked to quarantine at home, Gelb said, but he added that in the case that an entire bunk is affected – as one, he noted, already had been – the group would isolate together away from

the rest of the camp population.

At Ramah Darom in Georgia, which began earlier in the summer than other Ramah camps, an effort was made to stave off the virus. In late June, families were told that campers who tested positive would be sent home, campers would be required to wear masks indoors when mixed with other age groups and there would be no singing indoors for mixed-age groups. A short-term camp for younger children was scrapped entirely.

A follow-up several days later said case counts at camp were declining and asked parents bringing children for the second session to avoid gatherings in the days before camp – and to ensure a plan was in place to retrieve children who tested positive anyway.

Some camps did away with visiting day before the summer, capitalizing on the trial run of the 2021 bubble to make a more permanent decision about a complex feat of logistics that sometimes left campers feeling unsettled. Camp Morasha, which serves Modern Orthodox families in Lakewood, Pennsylvania, polled parents in February asking whether it should offer a visiting day, which it said many campers had experienced as disruptive. Ultimately, the summer was scheduled without a visiting day.

Camp Towanda in nearby Honesdale, Pennsylvania, took visiting day off the summer schedule a few days into camp. Camp director Mitch Reiter said the decision to cancel was difficult but “almost a no-brainer,” given the fact that many of the potential visitors spend the summer traveling across the country or around the world. He said the camp had not set policy for the future.

“We’re only thinking about this summer right now,” Reiter said.

Dozens of other camps, blindsided by the intensity of the BA.5 wave, are making the choice midsummer. A list circulated this week on social media by a parenting blogger has swelled as more names are submitted, including a growing number of Jewish camps.

For Horn Gordon, the cancelation of visiting day means she’ll go eight full weeks without seeing one of her six children. She said she wasn’t sure of visiting day’s value in a regular year and saw an upside of scrapping this year’s instead of having one that made other concessions to the pandemic.

“In the event that there had been a visiting day, it was going to be restricted at Ramah anyway, I believe, to two people per camper,” she said. “And since we are part of a very large family, it’ll be really nice to have people be able to come and say hi to their sister, from right behind me.”

Last Wednesday night, Ramah in the Berkshires held a virtual town hall in which officials emphasized that children were having fun despite the challenging COVID situation, cooking with chocolate and marshmallow fluff in the director’s kitchen and playing mini golf on the camp’s new course. Yoni Saposh, the camp’s chief operating officer, indicated that families had offered to send gifts and meals to their children’s bunks to make up for visiting day being canceled.

In that Thursday morning email, the camp offered an alternative.

“We greatly appreciate but cannot accept the generous offers of special meals to specific bunks and edot” or age groups, the email said. “But if you’d like to make a contribution, please visit our website to make a donation in honor – or in memory! – of Visiting Day.” **HW**

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Monty Norman, British Jewish ‘James Bond’ Theme Composer, Dies at 94



Composer Monty Norman (right) in London, with singer and actress Diana Coupland, after the couple announced their engagement, Nov. 26, 1955. Credit: Topical Press Agency/Hulton Archive/Getty Images

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – With a single driving guitar riff, the man born as Monty Noserovitch changed pop-culture forever – although he had to fight to get the credit for it.

British Jewish composer Monty Norman, who died last Monday at the age of 94, wrote the original version of the James Bond theme, one of the most enduring compositions in movie history.

Born to Jewish Latvian immigrant parents in London’s East End in 1928,

Norman first made a name for himself as a songwriter for early British rock groups and West End musicals, and as one half of a music-comedy double act with Benny Hill. He was an accomplished singer in his own right, too.

Then film producer Albert “Cubby” Broccoli called Norman in 1962 to compose the theme music for the film adaptation of Ian Fleming’s novel “Dr. No,” and convinced him to take the job by offering him and his wife, actress Diana Coupland, an all-expenses-paid trip to the film’s shooting location in Jamaica.

The thriller, starring Sean Connery, was the first big-screen adventure for superspy James Bond, and it needed a distinctive bit of music to match. According

to reports, Norman repurposed a piece he had written for a planned musical adaptation of a V.S. Naipaul novel, changing the sitar melody to an electric guitar.

“His sexiness, his mystery, his ruthlessness – it’s all there in a few notes,” Norman would later say about how the theme represented Bond.

The song has been used in 25 Bond films to date, as the franchise spanned half a century and multiple lead actors to become one of the highest-grossing film series of all time. The latest entry, 2021’s “No Time To Die,” grossed more than \$750 million worldwide.

The theme’s consistency helped endear millions of fans across the globe to the movies: Those stabbing brass notes

and slinky guitar riff, accompanying a silhouette of Bond himself shooting out the camera, were a surefire sign that audiences were in for a wild ride.

The number was rearranged by John Barry for “Dr. No,” and after the James Bond franchise became a smash hit and its theme music inescapable, Barry was often erroneously credited with having written the whole thing. Norman even sued the English Sunday Times newspaper for libel, and won, when it claimed in a 1997 article that Barry was the song’s true author.

Bond fans have long debated exactly who deserves the lion’s share of the credit for the theme, but Norman assuredly made his mark on 007. [HW](#)

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